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Between the Lines

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THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, CONFIDENTIAL, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Why India Objected

In spite of the insincerity, unfulfilled promises and exploitations of the past, the present offers of the British government to India should be said to be sincere and worthy of India's acceptance. It is in the air that compromises will be made and accepted. However, the reasons for the reluctance of the Indian leaders readily to accept the British terms does not reach the average American reader due to the complete British censorship. We would like to call your attention to the following points:

1. Indian leaders have been slow to accept British promises because Britain made promises to India, Arabia, Palestine and Egypt to get their help in the last war but when the war was over most of these promises were never kept.

2. The Indian leaders have been given no assurance whatever that the Tory Government that still controls Britain will support the Cripps mission if the results Sir Stafford achieves do not suit the Tory mind.

3. India isn't as afraid of being "lost to Japan" as the British are of "losing India to Japan" for the Indian knows that between China, Russia and India they can eventually handle Japan, for the Indian is an Oriental; he is not in a hurry. He thinks in terms of a century.

4. India knows that the very industries the United Nations now are screaming to establish in India as an aid to war production and war action are the same industries (steel, motors, machinery, etc.) Indian financiers have been wanting to establish in India for many years. British capitalists prevented it to keep manufacturing profits safely flowing into London,

5. The differences between Moslems and Hindus can be solved in a Federated States of India under a National Indian Congress leadership (the Congress is now headed by a Moslem). It is in British propaganda that the Hindu-Moslem issue is insolvable. There will be quarrels, flare-ups, assassinations, possibly someday civil war in India, but what Western nation has achieved statehood without such growing pains?

6. India has *not* been asking absolute immediate independence as the British government tries to make it appear. India has been asking for immedate, substantial *guarantees* that independence be progressively attained as soon as it can be reasonably worked out, that process to begin immediately, the place of Indian representatives on the United War Council a token of that process.

7. India will cooperate when they are convinced American leadership is secure. They trust America—they have watched the Philippines.

Behind the Scenes on the Anti-War Arrests

Our government is now cracking down on the "sixth columnists." The arrest of Christians, founder of the Knights of the White Camelias, Pelley of the Silver Shirts, and two or three others is the beginning. But note this:

The most outspoken fascist-minded, anti-war, anti-Roosevelt voice in America is that of the Catholic priest, Father Coughlin. Almost any copy of his "Social Justice" contains statements that match or exceed in objectionable qualities the offensive utterances of Pelley and Christians. Up to the moment of this writing, the government has made no public move against Coughlin. Washington is afraid of the religious issue and, as some Protestants have been saying for years, Father Coughlin is particularly dangerous to the peace and unity of America since his inflammatory racial pro-fascist teachings are cloaked in religion. Although the Archbishop of Detroit ordered Father Coughlin off the radio, the Catholic Church has been glad to capitalize on his following to build one of the most expensive and elaborate Catholic centers in America at Royal Oak, Michigan. It is remarked in Washington that the arrest of Christians and Pelley and other "sixth columnists" may be a warning that will quiet Coughlin. But the priest has cleverly prepared for just this situation. Father Coughlin's chief channel of expression now is "Social Justice" with a circulation of 200,000. He has installed a Mr. Schwartz as editor who now signs all articles and editorials. Yet if you want to see what is really going on, compare current issues with those in the past openly run under Father Coughlin's signature. You will see the same themes, phrases and ideas still being used. If "Social Justice" is not frightened into quieting down and the government does have to take action Mr. Schwartz will be the martyr and that will leave the priesthood with its usual immunity.

Big Business Puts Pressure on Progress

The average citizen does not realize how hard the Administration is trying to retain the social gains made during the past ten years. *Between the Lines* of course takes no party stand. But while there are many aspects of our national political scene which we have pointed out as dangerous and evil, yet just as eagerly we want to call your attention to the fact that the great work the Administration has done for youth in the N. Y. A., C. C. C. and elsewhere is something we feel should not be dishonored. Many political and financial interests have all along been opposed to these socially progressive New Deal projects and are using the war emergency as a smoke screen from which to attack and banish these aids to underprivileged youth. They claim the N. Y. A. and C. C. C. are not needed now and represent an unnecessary spending. The truth is that the government has done its utmost to coordinate the work of the N. Y. A. and C. C. C. with the national defense program. Thousands of young people are being helped to prepare for defense jobs through training sponsored by the N. Y. A.;—65,000 young men and 10,000 young women have been so benefited. The C. C. C. has been coordinating with the army leadership in preparing the lads under army age for their induction. The main point of all of this is that the Administration feels that the framework of these social advances should be retained for the inevitable postwar needs, knowing that if these projects are ever dropped, it will be almost impossible to start them again. The big newspapers and news-weekly magazines, most of whom are subservient to big business are cooperating in this smear campaign against recent social advances. It is strange, isn't it that the men whose daughters go to expensive finishing schools and whose sons go to rich universities are so anxious to wreck about the only thing our country has ever done for the educational advancement of boys and girls whose misfortune it is to be born on back streets or on tenant farms. In the old days a boy or girl could fight a way to the top, but now with economic stratas of society more sharply formed and competition vastly increased, we must be alert to new means of keeping democracy active or it will die.

Labor Union Racketeering

With all the high powered cracking down on big business methods and profits that the Government has achieved recently, why do not the Federal authorities give more attention to the racketeering of labor by some of the unions—electricians, carpenters, bricklayers, etc.—which are still making men who have not had a good job for years kick in $40 to $250 in cash initiation fees before they can get a day's work on a defense construction job or in war production. That is a touchy subject in Washington. Maybe the secret is revealed in a recent speech by Attorney General Biddle in which he stated "The New Deal has succeeded as a liberal movement because of its alignment with the labor movement." Fine, but is the new deal so afraid of labor it cannot point to flagrant abuses except in whispers?

Communists Use Race Riot Publicity

Do you remember the pictures in *Life* a few weeks ago showing Detroit white policemen beating up Negroes on the street during the recent race riots in that city? The communists have bought up all the copies of that issue of *Life* that could be found and are seeing to it that Negroes everywhere are having that picture deeply embedded in their minds. The photographs, mounted and vividly displayed, can be seen in Negro pool halls, beer halls and clubs as well as in homes.

Utility Interests Hinder Defense Production

We hear much of the aluminum shortage. We hear little of the machinations of the private power interests' $1-a-year men to prevent the construction of a public power line that would enable an aluminum plant to turn out additional material sufficient for a couple thousand fighting planes. The New York Power Authority has been trying for half a year to get action on the construction of a power line from New York City to Massena, New York. A new aluminum plant at Massena is capable of greatly increased production if it can get more power. The utility men have secured the help of Jesse Jones and have been fighting the project because they fear the line may sometime be used to supply cheap power to New York and thus eat into their present, tidy profits. Maurice Davidson, trustee of the New York Power Authority, exasperated with the long-drawn-out negotiations at Washington, exclaimed: "What are we trying to protect? The power trust or the United States?"

American Military Achievements

While confusion, buck-passing, job-protecting and political fiddling while the world burns still prevails in the nation's capitol, there is a change in the spirit and outlook of our military scene after three of the blackest months in our military history. We can look back now and see a clear outline of the path we've just passed over. Last fall after Churchill had assured Roosevelt that the English could hold Singapore indefinitely under any circumstances, after Secretary Knox also had given his word to the public that our armed forces in the Pacific were ready for any emergency, we issued what history will consider a military ultimatum to Japan. This resulted in Pearl Harbor and a long series of disheartening military defeats, for England didn't hold Singapore and our Pacific forces were far from ready. We have had to reconstruct our whole strategy of defense and offense under incredibly difficult circumstances. Despite these grave handicaps, the superior skill and ingenuity of American

A Missionary's Life on the Burma Road

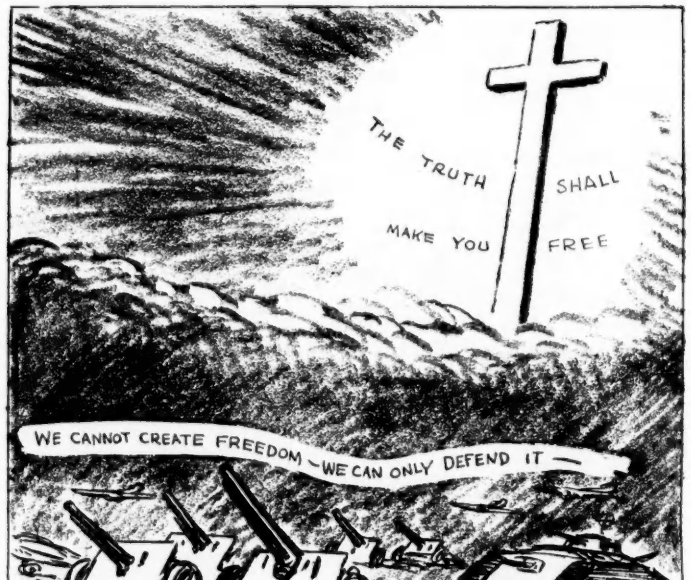
Reports received from Baptist missionary headquarters tell of the dangerous and important part missionaries play in today's far-flung war arenas. "There is a strong fifth column among the southern Burmese but the spirit of the hill people in Northern Burma is wonderful" says Mrs. Gordon Seagrave, a missionary, just back from Burma. Mrs. Seagrave has returned to America with her two young sons leaving her husband free to move with the Chinese Army. The Seagraves have been missionaries in northern Burma for twenty years and when war interrupted their work, Dr. Seagrave formed the Harper Memorial Hospital mobile surgical unit. Mrs. Seagrave drove an ambulance on the curving Burma Road and acted as chief anesthetist for her husband. Sometimes there were six surgical cases in one day—drivers who had gone over precipices on the Burma Road, injured coolies and victims of Japanese bombers. Twice a week the ambulance would make a 170 mile round trip along the road on which American lease-lend materials rolled into China. Dr. Seagrave and his wife took turns making the run, leaving at seven in the morning and returning with a load of sick or injured at ten or eleven at night or even one or two o'clock the next morning. Their hospital is on the Bhamo branch of the Burma Road but they'd go to villages along the Lashio Road too.

Almost as dangerous as Japanese bombers to the safety of the Burma Road is malaria which attacks the Chinese workers who keep the road clear. Quinine and injections play an important part in the work of these indefatigable missionaries. The ambulance trips became very grim when the Japanese started bombing both sides of the border and down into the Shan States of Burma. Several villages were heavily strafed because an airplane factory was operating nearby.

Dr. Seagrave is now in command of all the American missionary doctors and nurses providing medical service to the Chinese Army along the 500-mile front.

Mrs. Sword, missionary from Northern Burma feels that the Japanese will have a difficult time in the northern hill country of Burma, because mission work and relief services are maintained there, the natives are loyal to the British and their morale is good. She left Burma by plane on only a few hours' notice. No other way out was open. "It was the most sudden journey of my whole life" she said. Bombings, blackouts and actual warfare are actual experiences for missionaries. Women missionaries do not want to leave their fields but feel that their going relieves their husbands of a responsibility wihch might prove hindering. Mr. Sword is still carrying on his work along the Burma Road.

Mrs. Seagrave reports that Red Cross supplies are about the only materials now getting through from the people here. Medical instruments and supplies are most needed, she said. Native nurses have been trained to drive the ambulances.



And After the War . . .?

Here is a brighter side of the post war prospects. Administration sponsored experts, whose surveys are being assembled by the National Resources Planning Board see no need for a post war slump. Despite our fumbling about during depression years for ways of getting back on a full production basis we have proved under the necessity of war that it can be done. If it can be done for war, the Administration feels it can and must be done for peace by enlisting to the full the energies and inventiveness of private enterprise for the production of civilian consumer goods. And for the budget balancers there is offered the proposition that our annual hundred-billion dollar national income can easily carry an annual interest rate of 2½ per cent of a $200,000,000,000 public debt. Our worry is—can we maintain that income? Many of our leaders—Vice President Wallace, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, Federal Reserve Chairman Eccles and Price Administrator Henderson—say we can and we will and that it is the business of the Administration to see to it that we do. At least we are grateful to some of our Government leaders who can point the way to a brighter picture. But can this be accomplished without a great revival of moral character and spiritual integrity.

A New Attitude Threatens

The thoughtful Christian mind cannot help but be deeply concerned with the unrestrained extravagance sweeping American life. Despite the desperate need for thrift and the propaganda on all sides for salvaging all our resources, the old American habits of frugality are being swallowed up in a wave of spending. The stores are crowded with people who are buying everything in large quantities. Since the first of the year there has been an orgy of spending, and business reports show that it was only slightly slowed up during the income tax payment period. Despite curtailment of gasoline and the lack of new tires, every clear week-end finds the roads thronged with cars. In place of grave determination to cooperate with the national conservation effort, there is an attitude of abandon, a feeling of get-what-you-can-while-you-can. This mood makes us uncomfortably reminiscent of that spirit prevailing in pre-war Hitlerian Germany when working men had drifted into such a silent suspicion of their propped-up economic system that with a glum fatalism they spent whatever was left of their pay check each week on a fling of expensive entertainment and champagne.

American Armies in the Near East

Watch for increasing news that we are preparing for an American action in the Near East. It is no secret in Washington that American technicians have

whole strategy of defense and offense under incredibly difficult circumstances. Despite these grave handicaps, the superior skill and ingenuity of American military leadership is beginning to make itself felt in the Pacific. Ridiculously outnumbered during the past heart-breaking months, the American army and Navy have been able to reorganize the American position, wresting from the Japanese many of their initial advantages. Set-backs will still come, but military strategists are convinced that with Australia's unapologetic turning to American leadership, a change in the trend of the war is not far distant. History will record that American navy and army men have achieved a miracle between Dec. 7 and April 7. This miracle has been etched sharply in the mind of the world by the performance of the greatly outnumbered forces at Bataan, an achievement that stands out bright and shining in nearly three years of continuous democratic reverses.

Will Japan Attack Russia?

The military experts of the United Nations are still insisting that Japan will attack Siberia this spring. News from Japan bears up this opinion. Every facility for propaganda in Nippon is now being turned to the task of whipping Japanese hatreds against Russia. The feeling generally among American military strategists is that Hitler's offensive against South Russia for oil at Baku will start about May 1st, and that Japan will take advantage of this to drive the Soviet armies out of Pacific Siberia.

Great Losses Predicted for America

It is now being said in the most important circles in Washington that this war will take many more American lives than were lost in Europe in 1917-18. It is being remarked that the American mind must be conditioned for this eventuality. It is now clear that except for events in Russia, America is being looked to as the only nation which has the resources, training and manpower really to check the Axis. Military experts believe that a year from now we will be fighting with ever-increasing armies on four fronts, thousands of miles apart. Only an early collapse of Germany can now prevent this.

"See Your Dentist . . ."

Do you have some physical ailments you've been neglecting or teeth that need attention? The tip-off from authorities is that in building our army to nearly four million men in the next few months every community will find itself short of doctors, nurses, dentists, and medical supplies. The civilian doctors will be overworked, harassed by inadequate supplies and shortage of capable nurses. Better have those tonsils and molars looked after right away.

WHAT CREATES FREEDOM?

We have been tossing the word freedom around quite loosely these days, as if it were something we could fire out of guns or drop with bombs like leaflets behind the front. But freedom isn't like that. We should have learned this in 1918-19 when we proclaimed that most of the world must now become democratic—nobody much took up the idea and those who did used it as a false face to gain favors. Guns and bombs can defend freedom but they cannot create it. Freedom is a texture of the mind and heart woven by the spirit of God. It is an order of life made possible by the teachings of Christ which for all time established the supremacy of the individual soul. There is no real freedom unless there is equality and justice.

Synthetic Rubber and the Standard Oil

In the last issue we predicted quite a story coming out of the Senate investigations of Nazi-American industrial relations centered in the synthetic rubber developments. But before we were off the press the story broke—bigger than anyone had expected. The testimony of Thurman W. Arnold blew it sky-high and left the country aghast at the revelation of Standard Oil playing hand-in-hand with Nazi industrialists to the detriment of the American defense program. Here's the explanation current in the inside circles in Washington concerning the whole show. Our government, through the investigations of the Department of Justice, had overwhelming evidence that Standard Oil had been playing hand in glove with the German industrialists—not deliberately to sabotage the American defense program but deliberately for the highest possible profits which is a well established custom with big oil companies. In their exchange of inventions and patent rights, both the German and American concerns were profiting enormously and the development of the American synthetic rubber was being seriously delayed. Our government went to the Standard Oil officials and demanded a complete correction of the whole situation. The oil officials bristled, called in their million-dollar legal staff and it became clear that the government couldn't get what it wanted without a long, costly litigation. What the government wanted was access to those secret synthetic rubber processes—and it wanted them quickly. The Administration decided the only solution was to throw the whole mess before the public and settle for a compromise. There is no question among most legal minds that Standard Oil could be proven guilty and fined heavily. Also it is generally believed that Standard Oil did not realize, at least in the earlier stages of their agreement, that it was acting against American interests. But can you imagine how the labor press is playing up this scene of big business in war time? Well, you should see the C.I.O. and A. F. of L. papers! Yet the average citizen has had his faith strengthened in his government, that profits will not always stand above patriotism.

Financing Tax Payments

The loan sharks over the country are getting rich from the new income tax rates. Thousands of tax payers came up to the deadline without enough cash on hand to make their first payment to Uncle Sam. The loan sharks knew this was coming and in almost every community over the air and through the press carried on an advertising compaign to sell their "services in financing your income tax payments at modest interest rates" . . . rates, which when carefully figured up, are not so modest, averaging nearly 30 per cent a year on the money loaned, and in many cases even higher. Why doesn't the government, through the regular banking services, work out a system whereby the tax payer can pay monthly and the interest go to Uncle Sam after the banks have extracted a nominal handling charge?

American Armies in the Near East

Watch for increasing news that we are preparing for an American action in the Near East. It is no secret in Washington that American technicians have been in Egypt in large numbers for some time, and that soldiers and aviators are arriving there in ever-increasing numbers. Also a great American base is now being built in the former Italian colony of Eritrea. Bits of news of this have crept into the press occasionally but the general public is not aware of this significant development. In a few months we will hear much of strong American striking power poised in these areas.

What Keeps Churchill in Power?

Here's a revealing bit of information that has come direct from an individual who has just returned from England. The reason that Churchill's Tory government goes on from Crete to Hong Kong, Hong Kong to Singapore, and is not overthrown by any coalition of labor and liberals is because labor or the liberals want no part in trying to save a system that is doomed—*and in which labor feels it has no stake.* "British labor has its eye fixed on a star in the East, not over Bethlehem—a red star over Moscow."

Norwegian Christians Oppose Nazis

News continues to reach America concerning the increasing resistance the churches of Norway are showing against the German forces of occupation. Protestant Norway has been giving the Nazis a lot of trouble. Recent Nazi regulations are being openly ignored. The Bishops of the Norwegian Lutheran faith have boldly refused to comply with the new state edicts. When the Nazis ordered no church services held after certain hours because of shortage of fuel and electricity, congregations met in the cold, darkened buildings using only candlelight. The Nazis are enforcing these regulations hoping to discourage public gatherings where the spirit of resistance naturally foments. *The Christian Century* reports that out of fifteen hundred ministers of the state church only eighteen are reported to be cooperating with the Nazis.

Mexican Acres Redistributed

In January, 1942, more than 501,000 hectares of land were distributed from the Mexican estate of William Randolph Hearst. According to official figures of the Department of Agriculture, the area of land distributed to peasants during the presidency of Avila Camacho (December 1, 1940 to January 30, 1942) amounts to more than 1,800,000 hectares. A hectare equals about 2½ acres.

—*Worldover Press.*

Cuban Land Reforms

A great agricultural reform is taking place in Cuba. For years whenever Cubans wanted to achieve a measure of crop diversification interests from the United States demanded that sugar acreages be maintained. Now, however, with shipping at a premium Cuba is taking steps toward greater crop diversity.

Senor Rivero Aguero, Minister of Agriculture, has announced a program under which quotas for compulsory planting will be assigned, much as in the U. S. A.; and besides this, the government of President Batista *plans the distribution of thousands of acres of State-owned land among poor farmers.*

Washington Items

Between the Lines received the following significant report from the distinguished Christian layman in Congress, Lawrence Smith of Wisconsin. Study it carefully:

Many Congressmen are receiving a lot of mail from angry constituents charging that the Congress is responsible for strikes, and all other national ills. It is also charged that it is the duty of Congress to see that reinforcements are furnished General MacArthur.

It appears to many of us that a deliberate effort has been made to *discredit the Congress* in order to *shift responsibility.* (Italics ours) Congress has appropriated billions for national defense, including lend-lease. It has also granted the President "war time powers" on a scale heretofore never granted to any other man. Commenting on this situation a few days ago, Speaker Rayburn said: "Congress is being criticized, but Congress has given the President every law and every dollar he has asked for defense purposes." This is a significant statement by a great Democrat. The responsibility for the conduct of this war must rest with the President, and not Congress. He is the Commander-in-Chief and we must assume that he is anxious to win this war as is every other loyal citizen.

Now about the strike and the 40-hour-a-week problems which, it is charged, are causing production losses. There is no need for more legislation to handle these situations. On June 28, 1940, Congress passed Public Law No. 671, known as "An Act to expedite national defense, and for other purposes." Under section 5 (a) of that Act it is provided:

"That notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the President is hereby authorized, *in his discretion,* to prescribe regulations among the War and Navy Departments and the Coast Guard and their field services in regard to *hours of work and compensation for overtime* of their civilian employees as he may deem necessary in the interest of national defense.

(b) "During the national emergency declared by the President on September 8, 1939, to exist, the provisions of the law *prohibiting more than eight hours of labor in any one day* of persons engaged upon work covered by Army, Navy, and Coast Guard Contracts shall be suspended."

The President has the power to handle this whole problem. The Congress does not know why he does not invoke it.

Correction

We wish to call your attention to an error in the last issue of *Between the Lines.* We reported that a total of over a billion and a half dollars had been given for the world missionary emergency fund. The correct statement should have read "million and a half." The exact figure, as we have it, is $1,645,588.73.

Anti-Labor Violence

A case of the kidnapping and flogging of workers and union organizers in Tennessee has been broken wide open by the action of the F. B. I. After being squashed by the local authorities and suppressed at the source by southern newspapers, the Federal investigators got into action and have brought forward evidence which will show that Roane County, Tennessee, police officials and officers directly cooperated with the industrial employers who promoted the vandalism. Oscar Wiles and Homer Wilson, C. I. O. organizers, were kidnapped after a workers meeting in Harriman, Tennessee, severely beaten, tarred and left naked in the woods far from the nearest town. Bitterness and a spirit of retaliation is running through the workers ranks in many southern cities. Knowing the high handed, unscrupulous methods many labor leaders are guilty of, we do not doubt that the flogging was the result of provoking circumstances. On the other hand, the employers of labor are certainly asking for trouble a thousand fold when they in connivance with police officials, set such example of violence.

Living Costs Mount in China

Missionary letters from China report sky-rocketing prices. Rice to feed the average Chinese for a month has risen from $2.00 Chinese currency to $90. One egg costs 50c and a cake of Ivory soap costs $35. Rice will likely increase 200 to 300 per cent before the next harvest. The government has decreed that due to unstable prices, taxes will have to be paid in rice. The Chinese farmer complains that one-third of his harvest goes to the landowner, one-third to the government and one-third to himself. They say the third left them will not cover food expense until the next harvest to say nothing of clothing and other essentials. There is also a labor shortage in China—many young men have been taken for the army or road building, and agricultural workers are hard to find. Never has the missionary's task been harder, never has he been so desperately needed.

Another Angle on the Synthetic Rubber Controversy

It's about time somebody gave poor old Jesse Jones a break by giving a little of the inside picture on synthetic rubber. Our listening posts in Washington inform us that Jones went to the White House and other offices of high authority during the period under controversy and presented plans for synthetic rubber production. But a year or more ago official Washington had been assured by London and the far eastern representatives of the now United Nations that it was utterly unimaginable that rubber supplies would be cut off in the measurable future. Since synthetic rubber cannot be made nearly as cheaply as natural rubber can be landed in the United States in normal times, high administration officials realized that there was political dynamite in spending 600 million dollars on rubber factories that might never be needed. It is no wonder that brother Jones trotted back to his office and put the 600 million dollar blue prints on ice. This explanation in no way denies the fact that Jesse Jones has consistently played into the hands of big business and has become the nemesis of the little business men who have looked in vain to Washington for help in converting their plants to war production.

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